

HONORING 2003 RN OF THE YEAR
AWARD RECIPIENT DAVID D.
CROSS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David D. Cross on the occasion of his reception for the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2003 RN of the Year Award for Clinical Practice. The banquet honoring him and the other three award winners was held Friday, May 9 at the Radisson Hotel in Downtown Fresno, CA.

David Cross is an accomplished pediatric transport RN at Children's Hospital Central California. He consistently provides the highest quality care to all of his patients. Mr. Cross is a genuine humanitarian. He cares for ailing children, ranging from the most complex congenital heart problems, to life threatening traumatic injuries. David truly cares for every patient he tends to and does so with courage and poise that only a leader in the field of nursing could possess.

David takes on tasks and duties that occupy most of his time. He provides instruction to nurses from all over the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, he teaches many classes at Children's Hospital Central California including the Cardiac Core Program and Hospital Orientation. David also pays for books, tuition, and fees for prospective nursing students out of his own pocket.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David D. Cross for his excellence in the field of Clinical Practice. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing David many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN PRESIDENT FOR HIS THIRD YEAR OF SERVICE AND TAIWAN'S MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, Chen Shui-bian, President of Taiwan, is nearing the end of his third year of service as its leader. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate him, and to note several of Taiwan's accomplishments.

Taiwan, our eighth largest trading partner, has maintained friendly ties with the United States for more than half a century. We appreciate Taiwan's support for the war against terrorism, and its pledge of humanitarian assistance to post-war Iraq, a generous measure of support for its reconstruction.

Over the past several decades, Taiwan has become a successful model of rapid political reform and a true democracy. The people of Taiwan enjoy one of the highest levels standards of living in Asia, including universal education and medical care for people of all ages.

We look forward to Taiwan strengthening its bilateral relations with the United States, and wish it good luck as Taiwan seeks to join the World Health Organization and the Inter-

national Civil Aviation Organization. Taiwan's participation in worldwide organizations and activities would be a positive step worthy of commendation.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many of my colleagues in observing this month as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month.

I was proud to celebrate Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month by joining members of the Asian community in my Congressional district at their annual banquet on May 10, 2003. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are part of our long-standing tradition, enriching, strengthening and enhancing the fabric of our community through many talents, skills, and hard work. This month provides an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate the daily contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans that make our community, our state, and our Nation a better place to live in.

Asian and Pacific Americans have made great contributions to our Nation in all sectors, including the arts, academia, business, economy, sciences, law and government. Often Asian and Pacific Americans have achieved successes in the face of extreme hardships such as language and cultural barriers, stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice. To honor the Asian and Pacific American's sacrifices, achievements and contributions to our society, the United States Congress passed Public Law 102-450 that designates the month of May as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud to submit this statement for the RECORD observing this month as Asian and Pacific Heritage Month.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL FRED FORSTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of East Tennessee's finest citizens on his recent retirement as Assistant Adjutant General for the Tennessee Air National Guard. Major General Fred Forster has served his community, State and Nation in a manner that can only be described as remarkable. I know each Member of this Body joins me today in thanking him for a job well done and wishing him the absolute best in all his future endeavors.

I have said many times that the men and women who wear the uniform of this great Country's military are following one of America's highest callings. Each person who serves

this Nation is to be commended and thanked. There are those however who stand out even amongst this crowded field of heroes.

General Fred Forster is such a man. He has himself described a leader as someone willing to act and act consistently. I have had the privilege of knowing Fred Forster for many years and can say that he is such a man. His ability to lead large numbers of military personnel is matched only by his genuine concern for the individual. General Forster offers those around him a unique glimpse into what it truly means to be a leader of men.

General Forster has been awarded numerous medals and decorations for his military service including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal to name only three. I do not believe, however, that if he were here with us today he would say these are the best measures of his service. I believe that General Forster would say that his career should be measured by the simple fact that he gave his very best to his Country and to those under his command.

Fred Forster joined the United States Air Force in 1968 after graduating from the University of the South at Sewanee with a degree in English. He began his military career during one of our Nation's most turbulent military conflicts. Following completion of his own pilot training, Fred served as an instructor pilot. He later served as an Air Operations Plans Officer in Thailand. In each responsibility he was given he quickly proved his leadership abilities and profound dedication to our Country's military men and women.

Following the Vietnam War and completion of his Masters degree General Forster joined the Tennessee Air National Guard in 1976. He again demonstrated natural leadership and commitment to those under his command. In 1987 he was assigned command of the 134th Air Refueling Group at the McGhee-Tyson Airbase in Blount County, Tennessee.

For the next ten years, then-Colonel Forster led the 134th as it grew to its current designation as an Air Refueling Wing. The men and women of the 134th were called to active duty during the Persian Gulf War and flew under Colonel Forster's command as part of the 1713th Air Refueling Wing. During the conflict the 1713th played a critical role in supporting the countless combat missions that led to the liberation of Kuwait.

On July 15, 2002, Forster was promoted to Assistant Adjutant General for the Tennessee Air National Guard and in this capacity served as the second highest ranking officer in the State's Air Guard. In addition to his recent work with the Tennessee Air National Guard, General Forster continues to serve as the President and CEO of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce where he has offered his service and leadership to the betterment of the community around him. Although he has now retired as Assistant Adjutant General, I am confident he will continue to offer himself to the service of Blount County and the State of Tennessee.

Through both his professional and personal example, General Forster has set a standard of excellence few will fully reach but each of us would be better for trying. I want to personally thank General Forster for his service and congratulate him on his recent retirement. I also want to thank him for his friendship.